

# Indiana Teacher Educator Network

September 10, 2005

Present: Dr. Suellen Reed, (Indiana Superintendent of Schools),  
Cathy Danyluk, Mark Weaver, Sarah Powley, Jan Weir, Matt Walsh, Terri Boutin,  
Sherry Annee, Theresa Myer, Tony Willis, Stephanie Drae, Mariama Shaheed-Carson.



After introductions, Dr. Reed emphasized the importance of welcoming the hurricane-affected children and their families. We want to ensure that the students feel comfortable and we all want to help them in this difficult time of adjustment. While students will still be taking ISTEP next week, because they have not been enrolled for the requisite period of time, their scores will not count. Dr. Reed felt that it would be better for the students to feel "a part" of the school community rather than further isolating them from the school by pulling them out of the classroom while all the rest of the students are testing. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to use common sense when interacting with the displaced students.

Dr. Reed was encouraged by the latest TIMMS, SAT and ACT scores and the increases which have resulted - with increased student participation as well!

As Dr. Reed travels around the state, she is concerned about the number of schools who are cancelling all field trips due to the skyrocketing fuel prices. In some districts, finances are so bad that administrators are considering going to four day weeks. Since state law requires that students "cross the threshold" 180 days a year, a waiver must be submitted in order to consider this option. Adjusting work week schedules at DOE is even being considered as so many people must travel long distances to get to work. She wanted our feedback in terms of how different districts are handling the high fuel prices. Some districts have completely cancelled all field trips while others are adding a fuel surcharge to student's costs.

Dr. Reed discussed the current book she is reading, *House of a Thousand Candles* and its influence in commemorating Indiana writers. She supports the "One City-One Book" as another way to encourage literacy and reading.

The next Roundtable meeting is set for September 28, 2006.

Science in grades 5 and 7 will be tested during ISTEP this year. The Biology CORE 40 end-of-course assessment will begin in 2007-2008 for those students enrolled in Biology - this will meet the requirement of the NCLB and PL221. Discussion ensued about the lack of testing results that were promised about the on-line biology test this past spring. CORE 40 online tests in general require keyboarding skills



that some students have not yet acquired. Furthermore, the lockups and the technology problems caused many schools great concern while the testing window was open.

Mark briefly described the secure nature of the ISTEP testing and the scoring of the tests. The tests are all graded right here in Indiana by Indiana workers.

Lunch was provided by IndyAnnas - as usual, fabulous!

After lunch, we had a presentation from Sarah Fronczek, Fine Arts Consultant at DOE. She and Sarah Powley have developed an interactive and interdisciplinary approach to teaching about the Holocaust.

We started off with an interactive activity which caused us to respond and then reflect on different things - racism, religion, personal sacrifice, standing up for what you believe in, etc.

Both Sarah's tie the important concepts of the Holocaust and the book, *The Children of Willesden Lane* - focusing on how adversity can lead to triumph and success.

The workshops will help teachers use this presentation and will occur on October 24 at the Indiana History Center - the special guest will be Eva Schloss who was Anne Frank's stepsister. There will be other workshops in November and February. There will be complimentary tickets available for teachers who are registered for the workshop or attending IRT with their students. Sarah L. Fronczek contact information:fronczek@doe.state.in.us

Pieces of art were presented and discussion of what was going on occurred. Each of these pieces of art (some were children's drawings) can be used to promote discussion of the Holocaust. As more art work is discussed, more connections can be made and promote thought. Poetry (The Butterfly) can be used to promote further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Carroll Weir  
Milken '97